

年玉 TOSI-DAMA (Year's Jewel) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

The term "year's jewel", meaning a New Year present, existed from early times when jewels or shells were used in place of coins. To exchange gifts at New Year's in celebrating the coming of Spring and wishing the start of all good things became a popular custom from the Muromachi period (1392-1490), when things such as folding fans, paper, wine, cloth, and fish were commonly given. For children, battledores, kites, balls of silk threads, and boxes were the tosi-dama. This custom is observed to the present day, though now the gifts are more often monetary, wrapped in designed paper or envelopes.

年玉や  
柳の戸より  
梅の戸に

Tosi-dama ya  
yanagi-no to-yori  
ume-no to-ni

The year jewel ya  
From the willow-tree door  
to the plum-tree door.

-- 竹後 Tikugo

年玉や  
貝に納めし  
豆入形

Tosi-dama ya  
kai-ni osame-si  
mame-nin'gyoo

The year jewel ya  
Housed in a shell,  
a tiny doll.

-- 素石 Soseki

年玉の  
下駄を子の履く  
畳哉

Tosi-dama-no  
geta-wo ko-no haku  
tatami kana

The year jewel of  
clogs the child tries on,  
straw mat kana

-- 里人 Rizin'

年玉や  
八百屋くれたる  
貝杓子

Tosi-dama ya  
yaoya kure-taru  
kai-zyakusi

The year's jewel ya  
The greengrocer gave  
a shell ladle.

-- 伯洲 Hakusyuu

年玉に  
いとふくらみし  
袂哉

Tosi-dama-ni  
ito hukurami-si  
tamoto kana

With year jewels  
well puffed out,  
the sleeve kana

-- 美々三 Mimizoo

年玉に  
ながやく子等が  
瞳哉

Tosi-dama-ni  
kagayaku ko-ra-ga  
hitomi kana

At the year jewels  
gleam the children's  
eyes kana

-- 桐松 Toosyoo

年玉の  
毬をつきつき  
渡しけり

Tosi-dama-no  
mari-wo tukituki-  
watasi keri

The year's jewel  
of a hand-ball; bounced and  
given keri

-- 犀月 Saigetū

年玉や  
かちかち山の  
本一つ

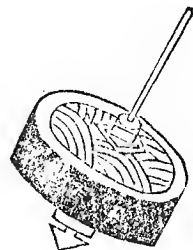
Tosi-dama ya  
Katikati-yama-no  
hon' hitotu

The year's jewel ya  
Kachikachi Mountain's  
book, one volume.

-- 青々 Seisei

独楽 KOMA (Tops) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

Tops were brought into Japan from China via Korea before the Heian' times and was the game boys played during the New Year period. The abbreviated name for it is bai, the name of the shell *Babylonia japonica*, because the original shape of tops was like this shell. There are many varieties of tops, the most common are spun with the use of a string. Others are made to spin by twisting or by striking with a kind of whip. The two main ways of playing are to see which can spin longest, and to see which can knock the other out of a marked area while spinning.



手のくぼに  
重さうしなひ  
独楽まわる

Te-no kubo-ni  
omosa usinai  
koma mawaru

From the cup of the hand  
its weight slipped away;  
the top spins.

-- 焚 Bon'

まはり澄む  
二つのこまに  
二少年

Mawari-sumu  
hutatu-no koma-ni  
ni-syoonen'

Spinning perfectly,  
two tops--by them,  
two boys.

-- たか Taka

独楽の子を  
たしなめ羽子の  
子をかばふ

Koma-no ko-wo  
tasiname hane-no  
ko-wo kabau

The child with the top  
reproved, the shuttlecock  
child defended.

-- 風生 Huusei

おのがかけ  
ふりはなさんと  
あばれ独楽

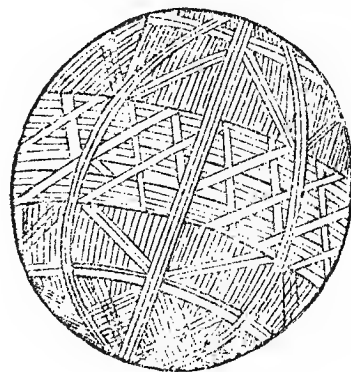
Ono-ga kage  
huri-hanasa-n'-to  
abare-goma

Its own shadow,  
as if to shake it off,  
wildly the top spins.

-- 占魚 Sen'gyo

手毬 TEMARI (Hand-balls) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

The old form of hand-balls was stuffed with the stems of the taro plant, cotton and wood shavings. A shell stuffed with sand was also inserted to give sound. Silk threads of the five colours were wound around to make a pretty ball. A game for girls at New Year's, it was bounced or tossed in the air. Temari-uta, hand-ball songs, were mainly counting songs sung as the ball was bounced, to see how long the bouncing could continue unbroken. There are also, like battledore, purely decorative kinds of temari.



手鞠つく  
てんてん響き  
くる書斎

Temari tuku  
ten'ten' hibiki-  
kuru syosai

Bouncing the hand-ball,  
tap, tap, the echoes  
reach the study.

-- 青邨 Seison'

手毬つく  
影おもしろき  
障子かな

Temari tuku  
kage omosiroki  
syoozi kana

Bouncing balls,  
the silhouettes interesting;  
paper doors kana

-- 楊桃 Yootoo

唄替えて  
又つき初むる  
手毬かな

Uta kae-te  
mata tuki-somuru  
temari kana

Changing songs,  
again start to bounce  
the hand-ball kana

-- 半美 Han'bi

まり唄や  
二百を越せば  
男めき

Mari-uta ya  
nihyaku-wo kose-ba  
otoko-meki

Hand-ball song ya  
Past two hundred, it got  
to be manly.

-- 普羅 Hura

右の袖  
左に持ちて  
手まりつく

Migi-no sode  
hidari-no moti-te  
temari kana

The right sleeve  
held in the left hand,  
bounce the hand-ball.

-- 竹秋 Tikusyuu

手毬唄  
息苦しゅうに  
なりにけり

Temari-uta  
iki kurusyuu-ni  
nari-ni keri

Hand-ball song;  
breathless  
she became keri

-- みのる Minoru

つくほどに  
はづむ上手の  
手毬かな

Tuku hodo-ni  
hadumu zyoozu-no  
temari kana

The more she bounces  
the further it rebounds, ski  
hand-ball kana

-- 青溪 Seikei

つきながら  
御廊下廻る  
手毬かな

Tuki-nagara  
o-rooka mawaru  
temari kana

While bouncing it,  
go round the passageway,  
hand-ball kana

-- 雉子郎 Kiziroo



羽子板 HAGO-ITA (Battledore) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

Originally called kogi-ita or koki-no ko, the Japanese form of the battledore was a charm against Summer insects, mosquitoes in particular. In the shape of a sceptor such as the emperors are depicted with, it is oblong and narrower towards the handle. A god's or a great lord's face were common designs in older forms, the back-side painted with a simpler design such as a pine, bamboo or plum bough. From the Edo period the face of a Kabuki actor was favoured. It is a game played by girls and young women in the New Year period. Larger battledores with more elaborate designs are used as decorations.

突きもせで  
羽子板を持ち  
廻りけり

Tuki-mo-se-de  
hago-ita-wo moti-  
mawari kerī

Not playing, just  
carrying the battledore,  
walked round kerī

-- 鬼史 Kisi

梅幸の  
羽子板艶を  
失はず

Baikoo-no  
hago-ita en'-wo  
usinawa-zu

The Baiko  
on the battledore hasn't los  
its charm.

-- 虚吼 Kyokoo

打つ毎に  
羽子板よりの  
鈴音かな

Utu goto-ni  
hago-ita-yori-no  
suzu-ne kana

Each time it hits,  
from the battledore  
a bell's tinkle kana

-- 辰生 Tatuo

羽子板に  
団十郎は  
遺りけり

Hago-ita-ni  
Dan'zyuuroo-wa  
nokori kerī

On the battledore  
Danjuro  
remained kerī

-- 桃色 Toosyoku

羽子板は  
まだ父の手に  
紙包

Hago-ita-wa  
mada titi-no te-ni  
kami-zutumi

The battledore--  
still in father's hand,  
a paper parcel.

-- 汀女 Teidyo

羽子板に  
團十郎を  
知る子かな

Hago-ita-ni  
Dan'zyuuroo-wo  
siru ko kana

From the battledore  
she knows Danjuro,  
the child kana

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

羽子板の  
役者の顔は  
皆長し

Hago-ita-no  
yakusya-no kao-wa  
mina nagasi

On battledores  
the actor faces  
are all long.

-- 青邨 Seison'

羽子板を  
抱へ手鞠を  
袂にし

Hago-ita-wo  
kakae temari-wo  
tamoto-ni si

A battledore  
carried, a hand-ball  
tucked in the sleeve.

-- 余子 Yosi

風 TAKO (Kites) / 春 HARU (Spring)

Bamboo frames of different shapes are covered with paper to make a great variety of colourful kites. The first kite in China was made, it is said, by the general Kan'sin' as a device to notify his Emperor Kan' Koosoo (circa 206 BC) of the condition of the enemy troops. They were introduced into Japan from China, when is uncertain. An early name for kites in Japan was siroosi (paper old kite), and the later use of the ideogram for "black kite" is probably a continuation of this. Because kite-flying was an activity of the lunar 12th to 3rd Months, it was originally a New Year's kigo. Principally a children's activity, in more recent times a competitive game developed for adults, wherein very large kites are used, of rectangular shape and covered with several layers of paper.



紙鳶の糸  
跨ぎゆく子の  
声の中

Tako-no ito  
matagi yuku ko-no  
koe-no naka

The kite string --  
between the legs of children  
amidst their shouts.

-- 種茅 Syuboo

紙鳶の尾の  
纏れ解けつつ  
上りけり

Tako-no-o-no  
mature-toke-tutu  
agari keru

The kite's tail,  
now tangled, now untangling,  
it rose keru

-- 徂春 Sosyun'

凧の糸を  
もつ手に唸り  
ひびきけり

Tako-no ito-wo  
motu te-ni unari  
hibiki keru

Kite string;  
holding it, the hand hummed  
and shook keru

-- 蒼海 Sookai

尾の切れて  
狂るへる凧を  
下しけり

O-no kire-te  
kurueru tako-wo  
orosi keru

The tail cut off,  
as it wildly veered, the kite  
brought down keru

-- 金桜子 Kin'oosi

糸出して  
凧はずんずん  
繪が霞む

Ito dasi-te  
tako-wa zun'zun'  
e-ga kasumu

String let out,  
the kite zooms up,  
the picture grows faint.

-- 裸骨 Rakotu

紙鳶の尾の  
もつれかかりし  
片靡き

Tako-no o-no  
mature-kakari-si  
kata-nabiki

The kite's tail  
has begun to entangle,  
a-tilt it flutters.

-- いの吉 Inokiti

凧一つ  
夕づく空に  
動かざる

Tako hitotu  
yuu-duku sora-ni  
ugoka-zaru

A single kite  
in the dusking sky,  
perfectly still.

-- 房山 Boozan'

切凧の  
見えずなりけり  
糸を巻く

Kire-dako-no  
mie-zu nari keri  
ito-wo maku

The cut-loose kite  
drifted from sight keri  
Wind up the cord.

-- 青白 Seihaku

龍の角  
落ちて土筆の  
生ひにける

Ryuu-no tuno  
oti-te tukusi-no  
oi-ni keru

A dragon's horns  
fell, and horsetail grass  
grew.

-- 秋桜子 Syuuoosi

土筆  
雀の丈に  
のびにけり

Tukutukusi  
suzume-no take-ni  
nobi-ni keru

Horsetail grasses;  
to the height of the sparrow  
they've grown keru

-- 冬葉 Tooyoo

蝶の影  
二つとなりし  
土筆かな

Tyoo-no kage  
hutatu-to nari-si  
tukusi kana

Butterfly shadows:  
now there are two;  
horsetail grass kana

-- 石鼎 Sekitei

まま事の  
飯もおさいも  
土筆かな

Mamagoto-no  
mesi-mo o-sai-mo  
tukusi kana

Children playing "house";  
both rice and vegetables are  
horsetails kana

-- 立子 Tatuko

石鹼玉 SYABON'DAMA (Soap Bubbles) / 春 HARU (Spring)

A playful pastime, soap bubbles were most commonly blown out through a straw of wheat that was dipped into soapy water. To see them floating in the Spring wind, reflecting trees and so on as they go, enhances the easy, balmy feeling of the season. Little ones that come quickly in great numbers, larger ones that are blown out slowly and float heavily, those that last long and those that instantaneously pop, make up a kigo of infinite possibilities.





石鹼玉  
面テうつりて  
ふくらめる

Syabon'dama  
omote uturi-te  
hukurameru

Soap bubble;  
with face reflected,  
it grows big.

-- 朋也 Hooya

春泥に  
尚消えやらず  
しやばん玉

Syun'dei-ni  
nao kie-yara-zu  
syabon'dama

On Spring mud,  
it hasn't popped yet,  
the soap bubble.

-- 月斗 Getto

石鹼玉  
小さきが風に  
強よかりし

Syabon'dama  
tisaki-ga kaze-ni  
tuyokari-si

Soap bubbles;  
in the wind the small ones  
were strong.

-- 明水 Meisui

吹く時の  
息の動けり  
石鹼玉

Huku toki-no  
iki-no ugoke-ri  
syabon'dama

While blowing it,  
the breath wobbled;  
soap bubble.

-- 紫陽花 Adisai

大空に  
むけし面や  
しゃぼん玉

Oo-zora-ni  
muke-si omote ya  
syabon'dama

To the great sky  
turned, the face ya  
Soap bubbles.

-- 耕斗 Kootoo

石鹸玉  
吹く子の顔に  
つぶれけり

Syabon'dama  
huku ko-no kao-ni  
tubure keri

The soap bubble  
being blown, on the child's  
popped keri

-- 潮月 Tyoogetu

しゃぼん玉  
玻璃戸に消えて  
泡少し

Syabon'dama  
harido-ni kie-te  
awa sukosi

Soap bubble;  
on the glass door it pops,  
a bit of foam.

-- 青路 Seiro

蓮の風に  
のりて色濃し  
石鹸玉

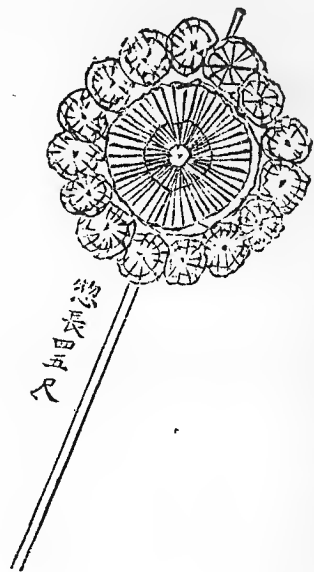
Hasu-no kaze-ni  
nori-te iro kosi  
syabon'dama

On a lotus breeze  
they ride, deep-coloured  
soap bubbles.

-- 夫子 Huusi

風車 KAZAGURUMA (Wind Wheel) / 春 HARU (Spring)

The word means "wind cart", a whirligig or pinwheel, according to different parts of the English-speaking world -- a toy generally enjoyed by young children. In the haiku world it is classified under Spring because from older times it was mostly made and sold in the Spring. Flower shapes were made from coloured paper, arranged in a circle, and attached to the top of a bamboo stick, so that all the parts would turn in the wind. Children would hold them and run to make them spin. The peddler of whirligigs was himself a flowery sight, with many of them stuck into columns of straw.



百貨店・  
出てよく廻る  
風車

Hyakka-ten'  
de-te yoku mawaru  
kazaguruma

The department store  
come out of, it spins well,  
the whirligig.

-- 遂天 Tikuten'

風車  
持つ手かゆれば  
廻りけり

Kazaguruma  
motu te kayure-ba  
mawari keru

Whirligig;  
changed to the other hand,  
it spun round keru

-- 皐月 Satuki

風車  
まはり消えたる  
五色かな

Kazaguruma  
mawari-kie-taru  
go-siki kana

The whirligig  
turned and they disappeared,  
the five colours kana

-- 花養 Hanamino

風車  
夢に入る児の  
落しけり

Kazaguruma  
yume-ni iru ko-no  
otosi keru

Whirligig;  
the child who fell asleep  
dropped it keru

-- 東陽 Tooyoo

雀子の  
飛習ひけり  
梅柳

Suzume-go-no  
tobi-narai keri  
ume yanagi

The baby sparrows  
have learned to fly keri  
Plum trees, willows.

-- 涼州 Ryoosyuu

雀の子  
羽をふるはして  
口あきぬ

Suzume-no ko  
hane-wo huruwasi-te  
kuti aki-nu

Baby sparrow;  
waving his wings,  
he opened his mouth.

-- きさえ Kisae

雛鶏の  
中に遊べり  
雀の子

Hina-dori-no  
naka-ni asobe-ri  
suzume-no ko

Among the chicks  
it frolicked,  
baby sparrow.

-- 萩徑 Syuukei

子雀の  
中の一つが  
親雀

Ko-suzume-no  
naka-no hitotu-ga  
oya-suzume

Baby sparrows;  
among them, one is  
the mother sparrow.

-- 青江 Seikoo

子雀や  
遠く遊そばぬ  
庭の隅

Ko-suzume ya  
tooku asoba-nu  
niwa-no sumi

Baby sparrow ya  
Far it will not venture,  
corner of the garden.

-- 紅葉 Kooyoo

雀子や  
走りなれたる  
鬼瓦

Suzume-go ya  
hasiri-nare-taru  
oni-gawara

Young sparrows ya  
Learning to run on  
the gargoye tiles.

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

雀の子  
ふらここに来て  
とまりけり

Suzume-no ko  
hurakoko-ni ki-te  
tomari keru

Baby sparrow;  
to the swing it came  
and stopped keru

-- 芒角星 Bookakusei

雀の子  
掴みいる手を  
噛みにけり

Suzume-no ko  
tukami-iru te-wo  
kami-ni keru

Baby sparrow;  
the hand that held it,  
it bit keru

-- 竹樓 Tikuroo

いそがしや  
晝飯頃の  
親雀

Isogasi ya  
hiru-mesi-goro-no  
oya-suzume

So busy ya  
Just around lunch-time,  
parent sparrows.

-- 子規 Siki

吹く風に  
子雀あはれ  
目つむれる

Huku kaze-ni  
ko-suzume aware  
me tumureru

In the blowing wind,  
the baby sparrow, pathetic;  
it closes its eyes.

-- 野風呂 Noburo

雀子や  
親と親とが  
鳴き交す

Suzume-go ya  
oya-to oya-to-ga  
naki-kawasu

Baby sparrows ya  
Father and mother  
chirp to each other.

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

子雀の  
口揃へたる  
軒端かな

Ko-suzume-no  
kuti soroe-taru  
nokiba kana

The baby sparrows'  
beaks are lined up;  
eaves kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

子雀の  
上手にとぶよ  
二三尺

Ko-suzume-no  
zyoozu-ni tobu-yo  
nisan'-zyaku

Baby sparrow;  
how expertly it flies,  
two, three feet.

-- 墨水 Bokusui

雀子や  
親も来ている  
草の中

Suzume-go ya  
oya-mo ki-te iru  
kusa-no naka

Sparrow young ya  
The mother, too, is among them  
in the grasses.

-- 吾空 Gokuu



仕る  
手に笛もなし  
古雛

Tukamaturu  
te-ni hue-mo nasi  
huru-biina

In the performing  
hand, there's no flute;  
old doll.

-- たかし Takasi

雛どちらは  
ささやきいたる  
様子かな

Hina-doti-wa  
sasayaki-i-taru  
yoosu kana

The company of dolls  
are whispering to each other,  
the way they look kana

-- 幸一露 Kooitiro

其中に  
かこち顔なる  
雛かな

Sono naka-ni  
kakoti-gao-naru  
hiina kana

Among them,  
there's a mournful looking  
doll kana

-- 花葉 Kayoo

灯ともせば  
眠たき様の  
雛かな

Hi tolose-ba  
nemutaki sama-no  
hiina kana

The light put on,  
sleepy was the appearance of  
the dolls kana

-- 椽面坊 Totimen'boo

赤ん坊の  
眼のとどきたる  
雛かな

Akan'bo-no  
me-no todoki-taru  
hiina kana

The infant's  
eyes have focused on  
the dolls kana

-- 醉夢 Suimu

宵の灯に  
黛うすき  
雛かな

Yoi-no hi-ni  
mayuzumi usuki  
hiina kana

In evening lamplight  
their pencilled eyebrows faint  
the dolls kana

-- 父母 Hubo

× 足もげし  
馬もまじれる  
雛かな

Asi moge-si  
uma-mo mazireru  
hiina kana

A leg-less  
horse, too, is among  
the dolls kana

-- 星華 Seika

手にとりて  
雛の瓔珞  
さざめくよ

Te-ni tori-te  
hina-no yooraku  
sazameku-yo

Taken in the hand,  
the doll's diadem,  
how it glitters!

-- 誓子 Seisi

雛の影  
桃の影壁に  
重なりぬ

Hina-no kage  
momo-no kage kabe-ni  
kasanari-nu

Doll shadows,  
and peach shadows, on the wall  
overlapped.

-- 子規 Siki

活けし桃  
雛の頬に  
觸れてあり

× Ike-si momo  
hiina-no hoho-ni  
hure-te ari

The vase's peach flower--  
the cheek of the doll  
it touches.

-- 博 Hiroshi

蟲ばめる  
衣冠の威儀や  
古雛

Musibameru  
ikan'-no igi ya  
huru-biina

Insect-eaten  
court costumes' dignity ya  
Old dolls.

-- 干柿 Hosigaki

豆雛  
全き目鼻  
持ちにけり

Mame-hiina  
mattaki me-hana  
moti-ni keri

Miniature dolls;  
perfect, the eyes and noses  
they have keri

-- 草々子 Soosoosi

灯ともせば  
皆顔丸ろき  
雛かな

Hitomose-ba  
mina kao maroki  
hiina kana

The lamps lit,  
all have round faces,  
the dolls kana

-- 六阜子 Rokuzoosi

灯ともして  
雛の笑くぼを  
見出したる

Hi tomosi-te  
hina-no ekubo-wo  
mi-dasi-taru

When the lamps were lit  
the dolls' dimples  
came into sight.

-- 梅咲 Baigyoo

夫婦雛  
口舌は知らぬ  
装ひかな

Meoto-bina  
koozetu sira-nu  
yosoi kana

Man and wife dolls--  
"We know nothing of quarrels"  
their air kana

-- 紅葉 Kooyoo

紙雛の  
倒れ易さよ  
窓の風

Kami-bina-no  
taore-yasusa-yo  
mado-no kaze

Paper dolls--  
their aptness to fall over!  
The window's breeze.

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

口かるく  
開けておはす  
雛かな

Kuti karuku  
hiraki-te owasu  
hiina kana

The mouth slightly  
open, in elegant presence,  
the doll kana

-- 百日紅 Hyakuzikko

子供等の  
話きくかに  
雛かな

Kodomo-ra-no  
hanasi kiku-ka-ni  
hiina kana

The children's  
conversation they seem to lis  
dolls kana

-- 典子 Ten'si

紙雛の  
三日月眉は  
ありやなし

Kami-bina-no  
mika-duki-mayu-wa  
ari-ya nasi

The paper doll's  
eyebrows like crescent moons,  
there and not there.

-- 通草 Tuusoo

いつの代の  
油の滲や  
紙雛

Itu-no yo-no  
abura-no simi ya  
kami-biina

What generation's  
oil stains ya  
Paper dolls.

-- はぎ女 Hagidyo

風船 HUUSEN' (Balloons) / 春 HARU (Spring)

Huusen', literally "wind boats", appeared in Japanese life from the middle of the Meidi period as a toy for girls. Made of five-coloured paper, they would be blown out and bounced in the air. The peddler would sit by the sidewalks or parks with them hanging from bamboo sticks about the time of cherry flowers. Balloons made of rubber gradually became popular, and these are also included in this kigo, which was added to the haiku saiziki from around the year Taisyoo 11 (1922).

風船の  
あまた飛びつつ  
一荷かな

Huusen'-no  
amata tobi-tutu  
ik-ka kana

Balloons--  
many of them bouncing,  
one load kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

糸切れて  
風船上る  
迅さかな

Ito kire-te  
huusen' agaru  
hayasa kana

The thread snaps,  
the balloon floats up  
quickly kana

-- 魚仏 Gyobutu

風船や  
庵の枯木に  
来てかかる

Huusen' ya  
io-no kare-ki-ni  
ki-te kakaru

A balloon ya  
To the hut's withered tree  
come, it hangs.

-- 波都女 Hatudyo

風船や  
多摩の横山  
越ゆるらし

Huusen' ya  
Tama-no Yokoyama  
koyuru-rasi

Balloon ya  
Tama's Yokoyama  
it's going to cross.

-- 董糸 Kin'si

バス埃  
風船賣に  
あがりけり

Basu-hokori  
huusen'-uri-ni  
agari keri

Dust from the bus  
onto the balloon seller  
rose keri

-- まさる Masaru

金の吹口  
虫の音籠り  
紙風船

Kin'-no huki-guti  
musi-no ne komori  
kami-huusen'

A golden nozzle,  
with an insect cry in it;  
paper balloon.

-- 草田男 Kusatao

人ごみの  
中を風船  
上りけり

Hito-gomi-no  
naka-wo huusen'  
agari keri

A throng of people;  
from the center a balloon  
rose keri

-- 百草 Hyakusoo

風船の  
子の手離れて  
松の上

Huusen'-no  
ko-no te hanare-te  
matu-no ue

The balloon,  
leaving the child's hand,  
on the pine tree.

-- 虚子 Kyosi



鞦韆 SYUUSEN' (Swings) / 春 HARU (Spring)

Like the temari (coloured balls), the swing was brought into Japan from China as an amusement for girl children. Han'sen'gi is an old name for the swing given by the Chinese Emperor Shuan Tsung of the Tang dynasty (618-907) and means "half-sage play". Han'sen'gi and syuusen' ("crupper swing") are terms which give an impression of the court ladies of China dressed in colourful garments, who were fond of engaging in this amusement in the Springtime. Also called hurakoko and, most commonly, buran'ko, one finds them now in kindergartens and parks.

秋千や  
風に袴の  
ふくれけり

飛び下りて  
ふらここ空に  
揺れ残る

鞦韆や  
ひとときレモン  
いろの空

ふらここや  
迎への乳女  
顧ず

Syuusen' ya  
kaze-ni hakama-no  
hukure keru

Tobi-ori-te  
hurakoko sora-ni  
yure-nokoru

Syuusen' ya  
hito-toki remon'  
iro-no sora

Hurakoko ya  
mukae-no on'ba  
kaerimi-zu

Swing ya  
In the wind the hakama  
swelled out keru

-- 真月 Sin'getu

Jumping off,  
the empty swing  
left to sway.

-- ただし Tadasu

Swing ya  
For a while a lemon  
coloured sky.

-- 小波 Sazanami

Swing ya  
The nurse who came to fetch,  
ignored.

-- 冬葉 Tooyoo

ふらここの  
ゆらゆらに梨  
匂ひけり

Hurakoko-no  
yurayura-ni nasi  
nioi kerī

With the swing's  
gentle swaying, pear flowers  
smelt kerī

-- 香村 Kyooson'

ふらここや  
帽子とびたる  
ままたのし

Hurakoko ya  
boosi tobi-taru  
mama tanosi

A swing ya  
With hat blown off,  
enjoyable.

-- 水葱子 Suisoosi

ふらここの  
影おさまらぬ  
芝生かな

Hurakoko-no  
kage osamara-nu  
sibahu kana

The swing's  
shadow doesn't come to a stop  
lawn kana

-- 芳南 Hoonan'

ふらここの  
静かに揺れて  
蝶々哉

Hurakoko-no  
siduka-ni yure-te  
tyootyo kana

The swing,  
peacefully rocking,  
butterflies kana

-- 愈青 Yusei

鯉幟 KOI-NOBORI (Carp Banners) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

The carp is a fish that symbolizes attaining eminence and success in life. From around the middle of the Edo period (18th century), carp banners made of paper became a standard part of the lunar Fifth Month fifth day's Boys' Festival, and were hoisted up along with war pennants in gardens or on roof-tops of households with boy children. In the Syoowa period (began 1926), carp banners made of cloth became popular. The large ones, about six meters in length, are used outdoors, and small ones are used for decorating the parlour, along with warrior helmets and dolls of famous warriors.

鯉の眼に  
朱の輪黄の輪や  
幟舗

Koi-no me-ni  
syu-no wa ki-no wa ya  
nobori-mise

The carps' eyes,  
red rings, yellow rings ya  
Banner shop.

-- 石鼎 Sekitei

煙突の  
林の中の  
鯉幟

En'totu-no  
hayasi-no naka-no  
koi-nobori

A chimney  
grove--in the middle of it,  
carp banners.

-- 泊月 Hakugetu

風吹けば  
来るや隣の  
鯉幟

Kaze huke-ba  
kuru ya tonari-no  
koi-nobori

When the wind blows  
it comes ya The neighbour's  
carp banner.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

夕風や  
松にまぎるる  
鯉幟

Yuu-nagi ya  
matu-ni magiruru  
koi-nobori

Evening lull ya  
Blended into the pine tree,  
the carp banner.

-- 墨石 Bokuseki

泣虫の  
子にことごとし  
鯉幟

× Naki-musi-no  
ko-ni kotogotosi  
koi-nobori

For the cry-baby  
son, an enormous  
carp banner.

-- 竹履 Tikuri

五月鯉  
影する砂を  
歩みけり

Satuki-go  
kage suru suna-wo  
ayumi keri

Fifth-Month carp;  
their silhouettes on the sand  
walked on keri

-- 朴聲 Bokusei

鯉のぼり  
重なりたれし  
真昼哉

Koi-nobori  
kasanari-tare-si  
ma-hiru kana

Carp banners  
in layers hung,  
high noon kana

-- 竹遊 Tikuyuu

鯉のぼり  
庭一ぱいに  
下ろされぬ

Koi-nobori  
niwa ippai-ni  
orosare-nu

Carp banners;  
the whole garden filled when  
they were brought down.

-- 月居子 Gekkyosi

× 鯉幟  
腹をしぼりて  
ひるがえる

Koi-nobori  
hara-wo sibori-te  
hirugaeru

The carp banner,  
with belly drawn in,  
flips over.

-- 石舟 Sekisyuu

鯉幟  
黒き片目を  
して廻る

Koi-nobori  
kuroki kata-me-wo  
si-te mawaru

Carp banner;  
with one black eye,  
it turns round.

-- 梵 Bon'

東風吹くや  
西に流るる  
鯉幟

Koti huku ya  
nisi-ni nagaruru  
koi-nobori

The east wind blows ya.  
To the west they float:  
carp banners.

-- 虚吼 Kyokoo

高枝を  
吹きはねし尾や  
鯉幟

Taka-eda-wo  
huki-hane-si o ya  
koi-nobori

A high bough  
blown by a flip of tail ya  
Carp banner.

-- たけし Takesi

鯉幟  
一郷のある  
こと示す

Koi-nobori  
iti-goo-no aru  
koto simesu

Carp banners:  
that there is a village there,  
they show.

-- 幽鳥 Yuutyoo

鯉幟  
鱗の映つる  
潦

Koi-nobori  
uroko-no uturu  
niwatadumi

Carp banners--  
the fish scales reflect  
in a puddle.

-- 耕雪 Koosetu

風落ちぬ  
竿にからみし  
鯉幟

Kaze oti-nu  
sao-ni karami-si  
koi-nobori

The wind died down.  
Coiled round its pole,  
carp banner.

-- 備南 Binan'

鯉幟  
折々影す  
机上かな

Koi-nobori  
oriori kage su  
kizyoo kana

The carp banner  
now and then casts a shadow  
on the desk kana

-- 凱風 Gaihuu



頭より  
かぶりで下ろす  
鯉幟

Atama-yori  
kaburi-te orosu  
koi-nobori

Over the head  
worn, bring down  
the carp banner.

-- 十夜 Zyuuya

鯉幟の  
ふくらめる腹を  
たたみけり

Koi-nobori-no  
hukurameru hara-wo  
tatami keri

The carp banner's  
inflated belly--  
folded it keri

-- 飛隼 Hizyun'

金魚 KIN'GYO (Goldfish) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

Goldfish were originally bred from red crucian carp and were brought to Japan from China about 400 years ago. Through cross-breeding, the Japanese have developed a great many varieties, the most common of which are the red tinged with gold, the large-bellied, the fan-tailed, and the bulging-eyed. From late Spring to early Summer they lay eggs in the duckweed, and these hatch in about ten days. Shortly thereafter, the goldfish pedlar would be seen, with his tubs and goldfish bowls, making his way through the towns, calling out his wares. People are fond of keeping goldfish in their homes to enhance coolness.

青松葉  
こぼれ浮き居り  
金魚池

Ao-matu-ba  
kobore-uki-ori  
kin'gyo-ike

Green pine needles  
scatter and float there,  
goldfish pond.

-- 洞然 Doozen'

藻を出でて  
顔大いなる  
金魚かな

Mo-wo ide-te  
kao ooi-naru  
kin'gyo kana

Poked out from the duckweed,  
his face enormous,  
goldfish kana

-- 通草 Tuusoo

底を行く  
金魚に動く  
真砂かな

Soko-wo yuku  
kin'gyo-ni ugoku  
masago kana

Along the bottom goes  
the goldfish, stirring  
the pure sand kana

-- 松寶 Syoohin'

貰ひ来る  
茶碗の中の  
金魚かな

Morai-kuru  
tyawan'-no naka-no  
kin'gyo kana

He comes to get  
in a rice bowl,  
a goldfish kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

睡蓮の  
花もつ鉢の  
金魚かな

Suiren'-no  
hana motu hati-no  
kin'gyo kana

A water lily  
flower it holds up, the bowl  
goldfish kana

-- 杏村 Kyooson'

さし水に  
よろほひまわり  
金魚哉

Sasi-midu-ni  
yoroboi-mawari  
kin'gyo kana

At the water being poured,  
it totters around,  
goldfish kana

-- 可志久 Kasiku

吹かれたる  
簾に沈づむ  
金魚かな

Hukare-taru  
sudare-ni sidumu  
kin'gyo kana

At the wind-blown  
sudare they dive down,  
goldfish kana

-- 芒月 Boogetu

突ついて  
麴を廻にし居る  
金魚哉

Tut-tui-te  
hu-wo mawasi-iru  
kin'gyo kana

Pushing it,  
he turns the wheat cake round  
goldfish kana

-- 田士英 Den'siei

さし水に  
しざりのけぞる  
金魚哉

Sasi-midu-ni  
sizari-nokezoru  
kin'gyo kana

When water was poured,  
it did a backwards flip,  
goldfish kana

-- 留城 Ryuuzyoo

さし水の  
渦にのりたる  
金魚かな

Sasi-midu-no  
udu-ni nori-taru  
kin'gyo kana

Water being added,  
on the eddy rides  
a goldfish kana

-- よし女 Yosidyo

かばかりの  
金魚に水の  
赤らみて

Ka-bakari-no  
kin'gyo-ni midu-no  
akarami-te

With only this many  
goldfish, the water  
has turned red.

-- 花舟女 Kasyuudyo

餌に向いて  
逆立つ黒き  
金魚かな

E-ni mui-te  
sakadatu kuroki  
kin'gyo kana

Turning to its food,  
it stands straight up, the  
goldfish kana

-- 夏村 Geson'

糞の糸  
曳きて泳げる  
金魚哉

Hun'-no ito  
hiki-te oyogeru  
kin'gyo kana

The fecal thread  
trailing behind, swims  
the goldfish kana

-- 山杜宇 San'tou

藻に紅を  
ばかして潜む  
金魚かな

Mo-ni koo-wo  
bokasi-te hisomu  
kin'gyo kana

By duckweed its crimson  
veiled, it quietly lurks,  
a goldfish kana

-- 塵外 Din'gai

女たち  
おしやべり金魚  
浮き沈み

On'na-tati  
o-syaberi kin'gyo  
uki-sidumi

The ladies  
prattle, the goldfish  
float and sink.

-- 青邨 Seison'

金魚浮く  
中におもちやの  
金魚哉

Kin'gyo uku  
naka-ni omotya-no  
kin'gyo kana

Goldfish float;  
among them a toy  
goldfish kana

-- 宕嶽 Toogaku

眠たげに  
藻にもたれたる  
金魚かな

Nemuta-ge-ni  
mo-ni motare-taru  
kin'gyo kana

Sleepily  
resting on duckweed,  
goldfish kana

-- 法師 Hoosi

泡を吐く  
金魚に落ちぬ  
松の風

Awa-wo haku  
kin'gyo-ni oti-nu  
matu-no kaze

As it spit out foam,  
on the goldfish fell  
the pine-tree wind.

-- 野風呂 Noburo

一びきに  
減ってしまひし  
金魚哉

Ip-piki-ni  
het-te simai-si  
kin'gyo kana

To one fish  
they've dwindled down,  
goldfish kana

-- 月斗 Getto

金魚玉  
つれば芭蕉の  
みどりあり

Kin'gyo-dama  
ture-ba basyoo-no  
midori ari

The goldfish bowl  
was hung; the banana tree's  
green is in it.

-- 千畝 Sen'ho

尾を振れば  
紅燦爛と  
金魚玉

O-wo hure-ba  
aka san'ran'-to  
kin'gyo-dama

When the tails flutter,  
the scarlet is brilliant;  
goldfish bowl.

-- 旭雲 Kyokuun'

金魚玉  
射る日や壁の  
虹丸し

Kin'gyo-dama  
iru hi ya kabe-no  
nizi marusi

The goldfish bowl  
the sun hits ya The wall's  
round rainbow.

-- 雪人 Setuzin',..

金魚玉  
眺めてメロン  
食ふことも

Kin'gyo-dama  
nagame-te meron'  
kuu koto-mo

Goldfish bowl  
to look at, and a canteloupe  
to eat, too.

-- かけい Kakei



金魚玉  
夜の軽雷に  
汗ばめり

Kin'gyo-dama  
yo-no keirai-ni  
asebame-ri

Goldfish bowl.  
In the light thunder of night,  
sweat beads formed.

-- 林火 Rin'ka

今朝もまた  
小さき地震  
金魚玉

Kesa-mo mata  
tiisaki disin'  
kin'gyo-dama

This morning, too,  
a slight earthquake;  
goldfish bowl.

-- 莫生 Bakusei

死にのこる  
一つに淋し  
金魚玉

Sini-nokoru  
hitotu-ni sabisi  
kin'gyo-dama

With the left-alive  
lone one it is forlorn,  
goldfish bowl.

-- 梨雲 Riun'

掬はれて  
小さく躍る  
金魚かな

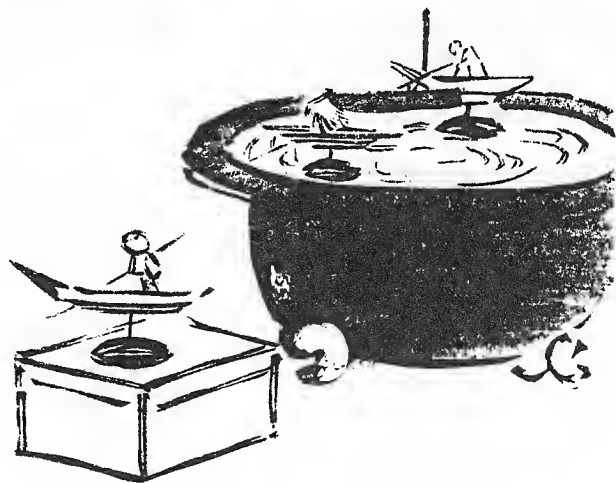
Sukuware-te  
tiisaku odoru  
kin'gyo kana

Scooped up,  
he waggles a bit,  
the goldfish kana

-- 湖州 Kosyuu

浮人形 UKI-NIN'GYOO (Floating Dolls) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

In Edo times, this toy was made of a doll set on a slab of wood. When camphor was put on the edge of the wood, the toy would run across the surface of the water. Later, the floating doll took the form of boats, goldfish, turtles, and so on, and was made of celluloid and plastic. Because it was a cooling thing to see children playing with these toys in tubs of water in the garden, it was made a kigo from the year Taisyoo 6 (1917).



浮人形  
腹をかへして  
揺れ合へる

Uki-nin'gyoo  
hara-wo kaesi-te  
yure-aeru

Floating dolls;  
bellies turned up,  
they rock together.

-- 月二郎 Tukiziroo

子は濡れて  
浮人形と  
遊びいる

Ko-wa nure-te  
uki-nin'gyoo-to  
asobi-iru

The child, wet,  
with floating dolls  
is playing.

-- 涼舟 Ryoosyuu

水面に  
ぶつかり浮む  
浮人形

Suimen'-ni  
butukari-ukamu  
uki-nin'gyoo

On the water surface  
they bump and bob,  
floating dolls.

-- 立子 Tatuko

盥の湯  
月にさめたり  
浮人形

Tarai-no yu  
tuki-ni same-tari  
uki-nin'gyoo

The tub's warm water  
in moonlight has cooled;  
floating dolls.

-- 旭雲 Kyokuun'

走馬燈 SOOMA-T00 (Revolving lamps) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

An invention of the Edo period, sooma-too means a "running-horse lantern". It is a toy lantern in box or cylindrical shape, made to revolve by the force of the air passage caused by a candle lit in its center. On the thin paper or silk shade are pictures of horses, birds, etc., which turn and give a cool effect on a Summer evening. Placed near the eaves or by the window, children take delight in watching it.

走馬燈  
畳二枚に  
廻りけり

Sooma-too  
tatami ni-mai-ni  
mawari kerī

Revolving picture lamp;  
over two straw mats  
it turned kerī

-- 桜碗子 Ookaisi

走馬燈  
秋を追かけ  
廻りけり

Sooma-too  
aki-wo ok-kake-  
mawari kerī

Running horse lamp;  
it chased after Autumn as it  
went round kerī

-- 黒洲 Kokusyuu

提げてゆく  
廻り燈籠や  
廻りつつ

Sage-te yuku  
mawari-dooro ya  
mawari-tutu

Carry along  
the revolving picture lamp ya  
It keeps turning.

-- 添水 Ten'sui

同じ影  
廻り燈籠の  
踊りかな

Onazi kage  
mawari-dooroo-no  
odori kana

The same shadows  
turn, revolving picture lamp's  
dance kana

-- 愚風 Guhū

ミルクセーキ MIRUKU-SEEKI (Milkshakes) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

The yolk of egg is mixed with milk, sugar or honey, and flavouring added, to make a drink somewhat different from the American milkshake. During the Taisyoo period when it was first listed in the Sin'syuu Saiziki as a haiku kigo, it was considered a nourishing but extravagant drink.

タワー昇りて  
ミルクセーキや  
白帆見ゆ

Tawaa nobori-te  
miruku-seeki ya  
sira-ho miyu

The tower climbed,  
milkshakes ya  
White sails can be seen.

-- 登秋 Toosyuu

ミルクセーキ  
女ばかりの  
食堂車

Miruku-seeki  
onna-bakari-no  
syokudoo-sya

Milkshakes;  
only women in  
the dining car.

-- 明水 Meisui

玉簾  
ミルクセーキを  
廻す音

Tama-sudare  
miruku-seeki-wo  
mawasu oto

A fine bamboo blind.  
milkshakes being  
mixed, the sound.

-- 千燈 Sen'too

子に打ちて  
我身にも打つ  
天瓜粉

Ko-ni uti-te  
waga mi-ni-mo utu  
ten'kahun'

Pat some on the child,  
pat some on oneself too,  
talcum powder.

-- 喜美女 Kimidyo

目覺子に  
乳房ふくませ  
天瓜粉

Me-zame-go-ni  
tibusa hukumase  
ten'kahun'

For the child who woke up,  
a nipple to suck;  
talcum powder.

-- 兎人 Tozin'

天瓜粉  
ところきはらず  
打たれけり

Ten'kahun'  
tokoro kirawa-zu  
utare keri

Talcum powder,  
on every inch of the body  
patted on keri

-- 草城 Soozyoo

天瓜粉に  
まみれて尖る  
汗疹かな

Ten'kahun'-ni  
mamire-te togaru  
ase-mo kana

With talcum powder  
smeared, it stands out,  
the heat rash kana

-- 朱千 Syusen'



ソーダ水 SODA-SUI (Soda Water) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

This includes the plain, unflavoured, as well as the various sodas flavoured with fruit syrups and ice cream. It became a kigo about the year 1923, with the following ku:

ソーダ水  
くれない薄し  
夕心

soda-sui-no  
kurenai ususi  
yuu-gokoro

The soda pop's  
crimson is faint;  
the feeling of dusk.

-- 宵曲 Syookyoku

ソーダ水に  
子は立ちあがり  
椅子の上

Sooda-sui-ni  
ko-wa tati-agari  
isu-no ue

For soda pop,  
the child stands up  
on the chair.

-- 孝女 Koodyo

麦わらの  
舌に音あり  
ソーダ水

Mugi-wara-no  
sita-ni oto ari  
sooda-sui

Wheat straw;  
on the tongue it makes a sound  
soda pop.

-- 月舟 Gessyuu

ソーダ水  
冷えにくもれる  
コップかな

Sooda-sui  
hie-ni kumoreru  
koppu kana

Soda water.  
With the chill it clouds over,  
the glass kana

-- 旭雲 Kyokuun'

一生の  
楽しきころの  
ソーダ水

Is-syoo-no  
tanosiki koro-no  
sooda-sui

Of a lifetime  
the happy times'  
soda water.

-- 風生 Huusei

花火線香 HANABI-SEN'KOO (Hand Fireworks) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

While fireworks that are shot up for display are an Autumn kigo, small fireworks that can be held in the hand, considered toys for children to play with on Summer evenings, are called hanabi-sen'koo (firework incense), and are a Summer kigo. There are many varieties: te-hanabi, sparklers; sen'koo-hanabi, a twisted-paper type that produces small drops of fire and star-shaped sparks; ran'gyoku-hanabi, a miniature form of the large display fireworks; nedumi-hanabi, a firecracker that runs around like a mouse before bursting.

手花火や  
額あつめて  
姉妹

Te-hanabi ya  
hitai atume-te  
ane-imoto

Hand fireworks ya  
Foreheads come together,  
two sisters.

-- 宿雨 Syukuu

手花火に  
しばらく染まる  
面輪かな

Te-hanabi-ni  
sibaraku somaru  
omowa kana

With a hand-sparkler  
for an instant dyed,  
the circle of the face kana

-- 晩紅星 Ban'koosei

手花火の  
こぼす火の色  
水の色

Te-hanabi-no  
kobosu hi-no iro  
midu-no iro

The hand firework's  
falling sparks' fire-colour:  
the colour of water.

-- 夜半 Yahan'

手花火の  
煙の中の  
姉妹

Te-hanabi-no  
kemuri-no naka-no  
ane-imoto

Hand fireworks;  
in the middle of the smoke,  
two sisters.

-- 一宿 Issyuku

氷水 KOORI-MIDU (Shaved Ice) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

Koori-midu, literally "iced water", means a dish of shaved ice on which a sweet syrup is poured, a cooling snack for a hot Summer afternoon. Although ice cream and other Western refreshments became popular, koori-midu flavoured with green tea or aduki beans is still an attractive dish for the Japanese taste. The old fashioned ice stall was put up under tree shades with a banner waving in the wind. These and small shops with bamboo or straw curtains were an integral part of the Summer scene, and a favourite subject of haizin'.

雲の峰の  
麓に声や  
氷賣

Kumo-no mine-no  
humoto-no koe ya  
kooi-uri

At the cloud mountain's  
foothill, a voice ya  
Ice peddler.

-- 梧月 Gogetu

匙なめて  
童たのしも  
夏氷

Sazi name-te  
warabe tanosi-mo  
natu-goori

They lick the spoons,  
happy young children!  
Summer ice.

-- 誓子 Seisi

大波に  
染めし簾や  
氷店

Oo-nami-ni  
some-si sudare ya  
kooi-mise

With big waves  
stained, the bamboo blind ya  
Ice shop.

-- 草猿 Sooen'

のれんみな  
動く夜風や  
氷店

Noren' mina  
ugoku yo-kaze ya  
kooi-mise

The shop curtains all  
stir, a night breeze ya  
Ice shop.

-- 芒角星 Bookakusei

汗の手に  
八百屋がたたく  
西瓜哉

Ase-no te-ni  
yaoya-ga tataku  
suika kana

With a sweaty hand  
the greengrocer taps  
the watermelon kana

-- 春虎 Syun'ko

山水に  
うたせて桶の  
西瓜かな

Yama-midu-ni  
utase-te oke-no  
suika kana

Mountain water  
made to fall on the tub's  
watermelon kana

-- 夏泉 Kasen'

冷蔵函に  
一ッ塞がる  
西瓜かな

Reizoo-bako-ni  
hitotu husagaru  
suika kana

In the icebox,  
even one leaves no space,  
watermelon kana

-- 登秋 Toosyuu

海見ゆる  
宿の二階や  
西瓜割る

Umi miyuru  
yado-no ni-kai ya  
suika waru

A view of the ocean,  
the inn's second floor ya  
Slice watermelon.

-- 丁笑 Teisyoo

日除ゆらぐ  
毎に日あたる  
西瓜かな

Hi-yoke yuragu  
goto-ni hi ataru  
suika kana

Each time the sunshade  
rocks, the sun hits  
the watermelon kana

-- 樂天 Rakuten'

井戸深く  
冷やしてありし  
西瓜かな

Ido hukaku  
hiyasi-te ari-si  
suika kana

Deep in the well,  
it's gotten quite chill,  
watermelon kana

-- 碧村 Hekison'

冷えきりし  
西瓜の肌の  
雫かな

Hie-kiri-si  
suika-no hada-no  
siduku kana

Thoroughly chilled,  
on the watermelon surface,  
water drops kana

-- たけし Takesi

隅田川  
西瓜の皮の  
流れけり

Sumida-gawa  
suika-no kawa-no  
nagare keru

×

Sumida River--  
watermelon peels  
floated down keru

-- 子規 Siki





七夕 TANABATA (7th Night) / 秋 AKI (Autumn)

This kigo originally meant the lunar 7th Month 7th night, not July 7. It is a festival of Chinese origin in honour of two stars, the Oxherd Boy and the Weaver Lady, identified with Aquila and Vega. Although wedded, they are only able to meet on this one night of the year, as her father decreed, because the Weaver Lady became neglectful of her work after the marriage. The Oxherd Boy crosses the Milky Way from its eastern shore on a bridge made by a row of magpies, provided it does not rain.

This festival, celebrated in Japan for the first time at the imperial court in the 8th century, continued as one of the 5 seasonal occasions (go-sekku) throughout the Heian times. Along the way it became a general festival celebrated in every household. As the 7th Month was also called Letter Month, the custom was to wash the inkstone and purify everything in the study. Poems were then written on strips of paper of the five colours and tied on the boughs of two stalks of bamboo representing the two stars. These stalks were tied on opposite sides of a table set in the garden, and offerings of fruit and vegetables of the season placed on the table, together with something lent to the Weaver Lady for the evening, such as a hairpin, or a piece of garment. As it was considered indelicate to stare up directly at the stars, their reflections were looked for in a tub of water placed outdoors.

七夕の  
結ふ間も舞へる  
色紙かな

Tanabata-no  
yuu-ma-mo maeru  
sikisi kana

Tanabata;  
even while tying them, they  
coloured papers kana

-- 桜坡子 Oohasi

古里や  
母も筆とる  
星の歌

Huru-sato ya  
haha-mo hude toru  
hosi-no uta

Old village ya  
Even mother takes the brush,  
poems to the stars.

-- 蓼江 Ryookoo

負はれたる  
子供が高し  
星祭

Oware-taru  
kodomo-ga takasi  
hosi-maturi

Carried on the back,  
high up is the child.  
Stars' Festival.

-- 草太男 Kusatao

七夕や  
色短冊の  
乳母車

Tanabata ya  
iro-tan'zaku-no  
uba-guruma

Tanabata ya  
Coloured poem cards adorn  
the baby carriage.

-- 曲無 Kyokubu

花火 HANABI (Fireworks) / 秋 AKI (Autumn)

Literally, flowers' fire, because they produced fire in the shapes of peonies, plum flowers, cherry flowers, willow boughs and so on. It is said that the fireworks used today were brought into Japan in the late 13th century from Italy, and about the year 1600 from Portugal and the Netherlands. Because the sight is cooling, fireworks were displayed from late Summer into Autumn. Uti-age-hanabi (shooting-up fireworks) is one of the main types used at large riverside displays. They come in long, cylindrical tubes from which, when lit, coloured flowers open up. The other type, called sikake-hanabi, contains a device inside that causes various colours of fire to flow out in different shapes.

こどもらの  
鼠花火や  
花火の夜

Kodomo-ra-no  
nedumi-hanabi ya  
hanabi-no yo

The children's  
mouse-firecrackers ya  
Fireworks night.

-- 迷子 Meisi

立ち居る子  
かがみ居る子や  
庭花火

Tati-iru ko  
kagami-iru ko ya  
niwa-hanabi

Children who stand,  
children who crouch ya  
Fireworks in the garden.

-- 愛女 Aidyo

紫陽花の  
色に咲きたる  
花火かな

Adisai-no  
iro-ni saki-taru  
hanabi kana

In hydrangea  
colours they bloom,  
fireworks kana

-- 淡路女 Awadidyo

空に延ぶ  
花火の途の  
曲りつつ

Sora-ni nobu  
hanabi-no miti-no  
magari-tutu

To the sky stretches  
the firework's path,  
curving.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

花火買ひし  
一人に二人  
ついて行く

Hanabi kai-si  
hitori-ni hutari  
tui-te yuku

Fireworks bought  
by one child, two children  
tag along.

-- 一水 Issui

赤と青と  
三つ釣り行く  
花火かな

Aka-to ao-to  
hutatu turi-yuku  
hanabi kana

Red and green,  
two streaks curve,  
fireworks kana

-- 魚波 Gyoha

遠花火  
音して何も  
なかりけり

Too-hanabi  
oto si-te nani-mo  
nakari keri

Distant fireworks;  
they made sounds but nothing  
was seen keri

-- 碧梧桐 Hekigodoo

草むらに  
落ちて黄烟る  
花火かな

Kusa-mura-ni  
oti-te ki kemuru  
hanabi kana

In a clump of grass  
it fell; its smoke yellow,  
firework kana

-- 奇骨 Kikotu

流れくる  
花火の屑の  
匂ひかな

Nagare-kuru  
hanabi-no kudu-no  
nioi kana

-- 五葉子 Goyoosi

They come floating,  
the remnants of fireworks--  
the scent kana.

-- 荊児 Keizi

ふりかかる  
花火の花や  
城の松

Huri-kakaru  
hanabi-no hana ya  
siro-no matu

Sprinkling down,  
firework flowers ya  
On the castle pines.

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

遠花火  
星にまぎりて  
消えにけり

Too-hanabi  
hosi-ni magiri-te  
kie-ni keri

The far-off fireworks,  
for a moment among stars,  
faded keri

-- 句堂 Kudoo

遠花火  
消えて山影  
残りけり

Too-hanabi  
kie-te yama-kage  
nokori keri

The distant fireworks  
faded; the mountain's shape  
remained keri

-- 五葉子 Goyoosi

流れくる  
花火の屑の  
匂ひかな

Nagare-kuru  
hanabi-no kudu-no  
nioi kana

They come floating,  
the remnants of fireworks--  
the scent kana.

-- 荆兒 Keizi

鳴かぬとて  
闇に移しぬ  
虫の籠

Naka-nu-to-te  
yami-ni utusi-nu  
musi-no kago

"They don't sing,"  
to a dark place, moved  
the insect cage.

-- 金桜子 Kin'oosi

虫籠や  
こちらで鳴けば  
あちらでも

Musi-kago ya  
kotira-de nake-ba  
atira-de-mo

Insect cages ya  
When here they cry,  
there also.

-- 子規 Siki

虫籠に  
蟬を入れたる  
童かな

Musi-kago-ni  
semi-wo ire-taru  
warabe kana

Into an insect cage  
they've put a cicada,  
the children kana

-- 紅緑 Kooroku

虫籠に  
朱の二筋や  
昼の窓

Musi-kago-ni  
syu-no huta-sudi ya  
hiru-no mado

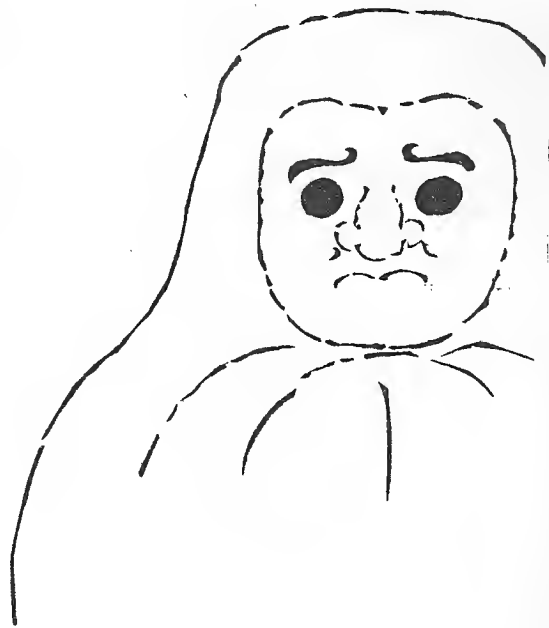
In the insect cage,  
two lines of red ya  
Afternoon window.

-- 石鼎 Sekitei



雪達磨 YUKI-DARUMA (Snow Bodhidharma) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

The Japanese snow man is made in the egg shape prominent in all depictions of the Zen patriarch Bodhidharma, wrapped as he was from head to toe in his monk's garment. A large ball of snow for the body, and a smaller one for the head, the nose, eyes and mouth were commonly represented by pieces of charcoal or stones.



方々に  
雪達磨あり  
日の暮るる

Hooboo-ni  
yuki-daruma ari  
hi-no kururu

Everywhere  
snow Daruma come to life,  
the day dusks.

-- あふひ Aoi

雪達磨  
転がる嵯峨の  
門田哉

Yuki-daruma  
korogaru Saga-no  
kado-ta kana

The snow Daruma  
has rolled over; Saga  
gate ricefield kana

-- 静兒 Seizi

雪達磨  
犬のしとより  
とけそめし

Yuki-daruma  
inu-no sito-yori  
toke-some-si

Snow Daruma;  
from where the dog urinated,  
it began to melt.

-- 誠奄 Seian'

雪達磨  
解けて小石の  
たまりいる

Yuki-daruma  
toke-te ko-isi-no  
tamari-iru

The snow Daruma  
melted; little pebbles  
are left in a pile.

-- 鵬于 Hoou

雪遊 YUKI-ASOBI (Playing with snow) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

Playing in the snow is a universal pastime of children. As soon as the first snow of the Winter falls, they wait eagerly for there to be enough to run out and start making snow balls, snow men, and having a good snow fight. Snow rabbits, snow balls, snow battles are some variations on this kigo.

靴紐を  
むすぶ間も来る  
雪つぶて

Kutu-himo-wo  
musubu ma-mo kuru  
yuki-tubute

Shoe laces;  
even while tying them come  
flying snow balls.

-- 汀女 Teidyo

雪礫  
読書の窓に  
あたりけり

Yuki-tubute  
dokusyo-no mado-ni  
atari keru

Snow balls;  
the book-reader's window  
they hit keru

-- 山梔子 Kutinasi

雪合戦  
休みてわれ等  
通らしむ

Yuki-gassen'  
yasumi-te ware-ra  
toora-simu

The snow fight  
took a rest to let  
us go by.

-- 波津女 Hatudyo

とけかかる  
雪をつかんで  
戦へる

Toke-kakaru  
yuki-wo tukan'-de  
tatakaeru

The about-to-melt  
snow grabbed hold of,  
he fights.

-- 黙静 Mokusei

雪やみて  
豆撒の声  
聞えけり

Yuki yami-te  
mame-maki-no koe  
kikoe keru

When the snow stopped,  
bean-throwing voices  
were heard keru

-- 麦奴 Bakudo

豆まきの  
声隣より  
向ひより

Mame-maki-no  
koe tonari-yori  
mukai-yori

Bean-throwing  
voices, from next door,  
from across.

-- 素堂 Sodoo

闇遠く  
鬼打つ豆の  
ころげゆく

Yami tooku  
oni utu mame-no  
koroge-yuku

Far into darkness  
the beans that chase demons  
roll away.

-- 得水 Tokusui

節分の  
豆にまじろき  
檻の鷲

Setubun-no  
mame-ni mazirogi  
ori-no wasi

The last-day-of-Winter  
beans make him blink;  
the caged eagle.

-- 楸邨 Syuuson'

汽車のつく  
頃幌機が  
一つ来し

Kisya-no tuku  
koro horo-zori-ga  
hitotu ki-si

As the train pulled in,  
one covered sled  
came along.

-- 素十 Suzyuu

機の鈴  
きこえしのみの  
今宵かな

Sori-no suzu  
kikoe-si-nomi-no  
koyoi kana

Sleigh bells  
were the only things heard,  
this evening kana

-- 夢香 Mukoo

動けざる  
汽車の間近を  
機は行く

Ugoke-zaru  
kisya-no ma-dika-wo  
sori-wa yuku

A stalled  
train; nearby it  
a sled goes.

-- みづほ Miduho

医師の機  
雪をかつぎて  
着きにけり

Isi-no sori  
yuki-wo katugi-te  
tuki-ni keri

The doctor's sled;  
carrying snow on it,  
it came keri

-- 手古奈 Tekona

蜻蛉 TON'BO (Dragonflies) / 秋 AKI (Autumn)

The eggs, laid in or near fresh water, split open at the back, and this six-legged, four-winged creature with large eyes and mouth, comes forth. At first, its wings are too soft to fly, but staying in the sunlight, they get stronger and take on a shine. Seen here and there in late Summer, by Autumn the dragonflies come out in increasing numbers, adding the glitter of their transparent wings and the fascination of their now-stop now-start flight to Autumn fair weather scenes. Swift fliers, capable of sudden changes of direction, they catch their prey in flight, and are themselves hard to catch, also because their eyesight is extremely developed. Rarely seen on cloudy days, they are often observed sunning themselves on a rock or stone. The red dragonfly is perhaps the last to appear of the different varieties, in late Autumn.

蜻蛉や  
りりととまって  
つひと行く

Ton'boo ya  
riri-to tomat-te  
tui-to yuku

Dragonfly ya  
With a start he stops,  
abruptly he goes.

-- 子規 Siki

一杭に  
とまらんとして  
二蜻蛉

Hito-kui-ni  
tomara-n'-to su  
huta-ton'bo

On one picket,  
about to land,  
two dragonflies..

-- 途子 Tosi

立ちならぶ  
大日車に  
蜻蛉かな

Tati-narabu  
oo-himawari-ni  
ton'bo kana

Blooming in a row,  
giant sunflowers--on them,  
dragonflies kana

-- 巨口 Kyokoo

草刈の  
籠につきゆく  
夕蜻蛉

Kusa-kari-no  
kago-ni tuki-yuku  
yuu-ton'bo

The grass-cutter's  
basket it accompanies,  
dusk dragonfly.

-- 月堂 Getudoo



蜻蛉の  
とまりて草の  
撓みかな

Ton'boo-no  
tomari-te kusa-no  
tawami kana

A dragonfly  
resting on it, the grass-blade  
curve kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

蜻蛉や  
居向をかゆる  
瀧しぶき

Ton'boo ya  
i-muki-wo kayuru  
taki-sibuki

Dragonfly ya  
He changes his direction,  
waterfall spray.

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

石抱いて  
風の蜻蛉の  
真平に

Isi dai-te  
kaze-no ton'bo-no  
ma-taira-ni

Clasping a stone  
in the wind the dragonfly  
perfectly level.

-- 自然 Sizen'

蜻蜓や  
追ひつきかねる  
下り船

Ton'boo ya  
oituki-kaneru  
kudari-bune

Dragonfly ya  
He can't quite catch up with  
the downstream boat.

-- 子規 Siki

蜻蛉の  
眠むられもせぬ  
眼玉かな

Ton'boo-no  
nemu-rare-mo se-nu  
medama kana

The dragonfly,  
he cannot be sleeping!  
Eyeballs kana

-- 子規 Siki

とどまれば  
あたりにふゆる  
蜻蛉かな

Todomare-ba  
atari-ni huyuru  
ton'bo kana

If you stop,  
around you come more  
dragonflies kana

-- 汀女 Teidyo

動かずに  
早瀬の上の  
蜻蛉かな

Ugoka-zu-ni  
haya-se-no ue-no  
ton'bo kana

Perfectly still,  
over the quick rapids,  
a dragonfly kana

-- 子規 Siki

蜻蛉の  
羽根鳴らしとぶ  
狭庭かな

Ton'boo-no  
hane narasi-tobu  
se-niwa kana

The dragonfly's  
wings resound as he flies,  
a narrow garden kana

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

蜻蛉の  
止るを待つて  
居る子かな

Ton'boo-no  
tomaru-wo mat-te  
iru ko kana

For the dragonfly  
to stop, he's waiting,  
the child kana

-- 萩香女 Syuukoodyo

とんぼうに  
ついて田に出る  
草の径

Ton'boo-ni  
tui-te ta-ni deru  
kusa-no miti

Following a dragonfly,  
come out to a ricefield;  
grassy path.

-- 千里 Sen'ri

赤とんぼ  
眼一っばいに  
空入れて

Aka-ton'boo  
me ippai-ni  
sora ire-te

Red dragonfly;  
its eyes full  
with sky.

-- 竺莊 Dikusoo .

赤蜻蛉  
群にはなれて  
飛んでいる

Aka-ton'bo  
mure-ni hanare-te  
ton'-de iru

Red dragonfly;  
a pace apart from the swarm  
it's flying.

-- 杏白 Kyoochaku

釣橋の  
下は空なる  
蜻蛉かな

Turibasi-no  
sita-wa sora-naru  
ton'bo kana

A hanging bridge,  
and underneath, the sky--  
dragonflies kana

-- 寅日子 Torahiko

大空に  
蜻蛉のみち  
ある如し

Oo-zora-ni  
ton'boo-no miti  
aru gotosi

In the great sky,  
a road for dragonflies  
seems to exist.

-- 三木 San'boku

木の影に  
やすむ帽子や  
とんぼとぶ

Ki-no kage-ni  
yasumu boosi ya  
ton'bo tobu

In the shade of a tree  
resting, the hat ya  
Dragonflies fly.

-- 翠園 Suien'

行水の  
背をかすめゆく  
蜻蛉かな

Gyoozui-no  
se-wo kasume-yuku  
ton'bo kana

The outdoor tub-bather's  
back they go blearing,  
dragonflies kana

-- 貞一 Teiiti

蜻蛉の  
かげ長く引く  
倉の壁

Ton'boo-no  
kage nagaku hiku  
kura-no kabe

The dragonfly's  
shadow drawn out long,  
on the storehouse wall.

-- 百琳 Hyakurin'

燕に  
襲れて来し  
蜻蛉かな

Tubakura-ni  
osoware-te ki-si  
ton'bo kana

By a swallow  
pursued, it came along,  
dragonfly kana.

-- 雀子 Zyakusi

石橋の  
石に喰ひつく  
蜻蛉かな

Isi-basi-no  
isi-ni kui-tuku  
ton'bo kana

On a stone bridge's  
stone he chews,  
dragonfly kana

-- 子規 Siki

蜻蛉や  
笠より長き  
僧の杖

Ton'boo ya  
kasa-yori nagaki  
soo-no tue

Dragonflies ya  
Higher than the wicker hat,  
the monk's staff.

-- 余子 Yosi

赤蜻蛉  
物干竿に  
並びけり

Aka-ton'bo  
mono-hosi-zao-ni  
narabi kerī

Red dragonflies;  
on the laundry pole  
they lined up kerī  
-- ゆけい Yukei

赤蜻蛉  
筑波に雲も  
なかりけり

Aka-ton'bo  
Tukuba-ni kumo-mo  
nakari kerī

Red dragonflies;  
over Mt. Tsukuba not a cloud  
was there kerī  
-- 子規 Siki

赤蜻蛉  
天馬の過ぎし  
埃かな

Aka-ton'bo  
ten'ma-no sugi-si  
hokori kana

Red dragonflies--  
after a fast horse went by,  
in the dust kana  
-- 蝶衣 Tyooi

蜻蛉の  
障子にからむ  
羽音かな

Ton'boo-no  
syoozi-ni karamu  
ha-oto kana

The dragonfly  
fluttering against the shoji  
the wing sounds kana  
-- 十字路 Zyuuziro

竹馬 TAKE-UMA (Bamboo Horse) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

The older version of this toy was a bamboo branch with a few leaves still on it, held between the legs and ridden by children with a cord round the bare end and the leaves trailing on the ground. Around the Edo period, two sticks of bamboo were used, as stilts. A horse's head on one end and a wheel on the other was a more sophisticated form of the original version.



竹馬で  
塀の上から  
呼びに来る

Take-uma-de  
hei-no ue-kara  
yobi-ni kuru

On stilts,  
looking over the fence,  
he comes to call.

-- 凡骨 Bon'kotu

竹馬の  
子は著ぶくれて  
影丸き

Take-uma-no  
ko-wa ki-bukure-te  
kage maroki

On stilts,  
the child, puffed with clothes  
has a round shadow.

-- 枝影女 Sieidyo

竹馬の  
子のあじぎして  
ころびけり

Take-uma-no  
ko-no o-zigi si-te  
korobi keri

On stilts  
the child made a bow  
and tumbled keri

-- 立子 Tatuko

竹馬の  
飴賣かこむ  
辻日和

Take-uma-no  
ame-uri kakomu  
tuzi-biyori

Bamboo horses  
surround the toffee seller;  
a crossroad's fine day.

-- 草太郎 Sootaroo



竹馬の  
羽織かむつて  
かけりけり

Take-uma-no  
haori kamut-te  
kakeri keri

Bamboo horse;  
with haori over head  
he galloped keri

-- 石鼎 Sekitei

竹馬の  
子にして遅き  
使ひかな

Take-uma-no  
ko-ni si-te osoki  
tukai kana

For a bamboo-horsed  
child, a slow  
messenger kana

-- 吐月 Togetu

竹馬の  
影近づきし  
障子かな

Take-uma-no  
kage tikaduki-si  
syoozi kana

The stilts'  
shadow has come close,  
paper door kana

-- たかし Takasi

竹馬の  
別るる声の  
してゆふべ

Take-uma-no  
wakaruru koe-no  
si-te yuube

When bamboo-horse  
voices say "goodbye",  
dusk comes.

-- 拐童 Kaidoo

ねんねこ NEN'NEKO (Wadded Coat-for-Two) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

This word means something like, "go to sleep, child", and means the wadded garment worn to go over the child being carried on the back of the carrier of the child, whether it be the mother, father, or nurse maid. It seems to have been invented in the early 19th century. It is a bit longer than the haori, roomy enough for two, and has a wide collar, usually with a wide collar of black or dark blue, to keep stains from showing.



ねんねこを  
着て寺の影  
山の影

Nen'neko-wo  
ki-te tera-no kage  
yama-no kage

With nenneko  
on, the temple's shadow,  
the mountain's shadow.

-- 宋淵 Sooen'

ねんねこに  
子は卸されて  
落葉搔

Nen'neko-ni  
ko-wa orosare-te  
oti-ba-kaki

In the wadded coat  
the child put down,  
rake the fallen leaves.

-- 磯山 Kizan'

ねんねこに  
埋めたる頬に  
櫛落つる

Nen'neko-ni  
ume-taru hoho-ni  
kusi oturu

Wadded coat-for-two;  
on the buried cheek  
a comb falls.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

ねんねこに  
眠る子うづみ  
百万辺

Nen'neko-ni  
nemuru ko udumi  
hyakuman'-ben'

In a nenneko  
the sleeping child buried,  
a million nembutsu.

-- 知世子 Tiyyoko

七五三  
飴も袂も  
ひきずりぬ

七五三  
妻も大人と  
なりにけり

松風や  
長き袋の  
千歳飴

Siti-go-san'  
ame-mo tamoto-mo  
hikizuri-nu

Siti-go-san'  
tuma-mo otona-to  
nari-ni keri

Matu-kaze ya  
nagaki hukuro-no  
ti-tose-ame

Seven, five and three;  
both taffy and sleeve  
dragged along.

-- 種茅 Syuboo

Seven, five and three;  
even the wife, into an adult  
has changed keri

-- 筍吉 Zyun'kiti

Pine-tree wind ya  
A long sack of  
"thousand-years taffy".

-- 白泉 Hakusen'

おもむろに  
角ふりかぶり  
兜蟲

Omomuro-ni  
tuno huri-kaburi  
kabuto-musi

Deliberately,  
it moves its horns,  
the beetle.

-- 多景王 Takeioo

かぶと虫  
甲冑鳴らし  
星より来

Kabuto-musi  
kattyuu narasi  
hosi-yori ku

Beetle:  
rattling its armour,  
from the stars it comes.

-- 寿秋 Zyusyuu

畳這ふ  
爪の力や  
兜蟲

Tatami hau  
tume-no tikara ya  
kabuto-musi

As it crawls on the mat,  
its fingernails' power ya  
The beetle.

-- 月斗 Getto

兜虫  
甲冑重く  
飛びにけり

Kabuto-musi  
kattyuu omoku  
tobi-ni keri

The beetle,  
in heavy helmet and armour,  
flew keri

-- 雨人 Uzin'

螢籠  
深夜の坂を  
提げゆけり

Hotaru-kago  
sin'ya-no saka-wo  
sage-yuke-ri

Firefly cage;  
down deep night's hill  
someone carries it.

-- かけい Kakei

水満つる  
夜の笥や  
螢籠

Midu mituru  
yoru-no kakei ya  
hotaru-kago

The water increases  
in night's bamboo conduit ya  
Firefly cage.

-- 五山 Gozan'

ころがりて  
螢の籠の  
灯り居り

Korogari-te  
hotaru-no kago-no  
tomori-ori

When it rolled over,  
the firefly cage  
lit up.

-- 一魯 Itiro

あけがたや  
うすきひかりの  
螢籠

Ake-gata ya  
usuki hikari-no  
hotaru-kago

Near dawn ya  
A faint glimmer from  
the firefly cage.

-- 林火 Rin'ka

ひとすぢの  
茅の葉つらぬき  
螢籠

Hito-sudi-no  
ti-no ha turanuki  
hotaru-kago

One straight  
miscanthus leaf goes through  
the firefly cage.

-- 烏頭子 Utoosi

螢籠  
ともっているや  
町のはし

Hotaru-kago  
tomot-te iru ya  
mati-no hasi

A firefly cage  
is lighting up ya  
The edge of town.

-- 青畝 Seiho

螢籠  
微風の枝に  
かかりけり

Hotaru-kago  
bihuu-no eda-ni  
kakari keri

Firefly cage--  
where a breeze moves the bough  
hung up keri

-- 紅葉 Kooyoo

螢籠  
水ふけば草  
蘇る

Hotaru-kago  
midu huke-ba kusa  
yomigaeru

Firefly cage--  
water sprayed, the grasses  
revive.

-- 青嵐 Seiran'

卒業子  
緋衣とかはりて  
花のみち

Sotugyoo-si  
sii-to kawari-te  
hana-no miti

Graduating youth;  
From black uniforms changed,  
a flowery road.

-- 静塔 Seitoo

校塔に  
鳩多き日や  
卒業す

Kootoo-ni  
hato ooki hi ya  
sotugyoo su

On the school tower  
many pigeons today ya  
Students graduate.

-- 草太男 Kusatao

一を知つて  
二を知らぬなり  
卒業す

Iti-wo sit-te  
ni-wo sira-nu-nari  
sotugyoo su

They know one,  
but don't know two;  
they graduate.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

卒業の  
写真に入れる  
桜かな

Sotugyoo-no  
syasin'-ni ireru  
sakura kana

In the graduation  
photo, put in  
the cherry flowers kana

-- 東州 Toosyuu



新らしき  
靴そろへあり  
入学兒

Atarasiki  
kutu soroe-ari  
nyuugaku-si

Brand new  
shoes in a row,  
children begin school.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

入学の  
子に高かりし  
机かな

Nyuugaku-no  
ko-ni takakari-si  
tukue kana

For the begin-school  
child, it was too high,  
the desk kana

-- 葉末 Yoomatu

蝶と馬  
入学の子が  
描きて朱し

Tyoo-to uma  
nyuugaku-no ko-ga  
kaki-te akasi

A butterfly and a horse;  
the begin-school child  
drew and coloured red:

-- 時彦 Tokihiko

獅子舞の  
獅子さげて畑  
急ぐなり

Sisi-mai-no  
sisi sage-te hata  
isogu-nari

The lion dance's  
lion carried, the vegetable patch  
hurried along.

-- 澄雄 Sumio

獅子の頭  
振るたびに日に  
光りけり

Sisi-no kasira  
huru tabi-ni hi-ni  
hikari keri

The lion's head.  
Each time it shook, with sunlight  
it sparkled keri

-- 一之介 Itinosuke

獅子舞の  
二人の足を  
見詰めけり

Sisi-mai-no  
hutari-no asi-wo  
mitume keri

The lion dance;  
two people's legs  
were watched keri

-- 喜舟 Kisyuu

逆立てば  
餅転ろげしよ  
越後獅子

Sakadate-ba  
moti koroge-si-yo  
Etigo-zisi

When it stood upside down,  
rice-cakes came rolling out!  
Echigo lion.

-- 七狼 Sitiroo

頭痛む  
子を獅子舞に  
喰はせけり

Atama itamu  
ko-wo sisi-mai-ni  
kuwase keri

A head-aching  
child; had the lion dancer  
eat him keri

-- 忠夫 Tadao

獅子舞や  
あの山越えむ  
獅子の耳

Sisi-mai ya  
ano yama koe-mu  
sisi-no mimi

Lion dance ya  
About to cross that mountain,  
the lion's ears.

-- 万太郎 Man'taroo

獅子舞に  
噛んで貰ひし  
嬭かな

Sisi-mai-ni  
kan'-de morai-si  
oona kana

Dancing lion.  
She had it take a bite of her  
old woman kana

-- 刀郎 Tooroo

獅子舞の  
巨口がっくり  
舞ひ納む

Sisi-mai-no  
kyokoo gakkuri  
mai-osamu

The lion dance--  
a giant mouth claps  
and it ends.

-- 蓼汀 Ryootei

橙に  
突当りけり  
獅子の頭

Daidai-ni  
tuki-atari keri  
sisi-no kasira

The bitter orange  
it ran into keri  
the lion's head.

-- 松宇 Syoou

獅子舞は  
顔むきだして  
しまひけり

Sisi-mai-wa  
kao muki-dasi-te  
simai keri

The lion dancer  
stuck out his face and  
ended the dance keri

-- 唐月 Toogetu